

REMARKS

Claims 1-31 are pending in this application. Claims 1 and 6-23 have been rejected and claims 2-5 have been objected to. Claims 1, 6-7, and 18-23 have been amended and claims 24-31 have been added via the above amendment.

Claim Rejection: 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1, 6-13, and 18-23 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(b) as being anticipated by Huh et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,252,783), for the reasons noted on page 2 of the Office Action. Applicants respectfully traverse this rejection.

The rejected independent claims all contain the limitation of a switching controller for controlling the switching operation in the standby mode according to a feedback voltage from the feedback circuit. Some of the dependent claims currently recited that the switching controller contains a switching driver that operates continually during the standby mode. Other dependent claims contain the limitation that the voltage from the feedback circuit is always more than zero during the standby mode.

The Office, however, has failed to show that Huh et al. teach or suggest these limitations. The Office argues that the device illustrated and described as Figure 1 describes each and every feature in the present claims. In particular, the Office argues the device in Figure 1 of Huh et al. contains a feedback circuit 200 and a switching controller 300 with the claimed features.

As noted in Huh et al., the device of Figure 1 operates in both a normal mode and standby mode. In the standby mode, the capacitor C_b does not charge and the feedback voltage V_b remains near zero volts. *See column 4, lines 47-48.* Because the switch SW2 remains open, the feedback voltage V_b and the control voltage V_c are also near zero volts, which turns the switch

driver 320 off. *See column 4, lines 49-52 and column 5, lines 8-10.* Thus, in the standby mode, the output voltage V_{out} and the feedback circuit 200 are decoupled from the switching controller 300. *See column 5, lines 13-17 and 20-21.*

In light of such a disclosure, the Office has not substantiated that in the standby mode, the switching controller 300 operates according to the feedback voltage from the feedback circuit. Indeed, it would be difficult to make such an argument since the feedback voltage is 0. Rather, the skilled artisan would have likely understood that the switching controller 300 operates according to the supply voltage V_{cc} .

As well, the Office has not shown that Huh et al. teach or suggest a switching controller containing a switching driver that operates continually during the standby mode. As noted by Huh et al., the switch driver 320 cycles on and off in the standby mode.

Finally, the Office has not shown that Huh et al. teach or suggest a voltage from the feedback circuit that is always more than zero during the standby mode. Besides the disclosure mentioned above, Huh et al. illustrate in Figure 5(C) that the feedback voltage is substantially near zero volts in the standby mode. *See also column 7, lines 32-35.*

Thus, the Office has not shown that Huh et al. teaches or suggests every limitation in the rejected claims. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

Allowable Subject Matter

Applicants thank the Office for indicating that claims 2-5 contain allowable subject matter and would be allowed if rewritten in independent form to include all the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

Claim Rejection 35 U.S.C. §103

Claims 14-17 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103 as being unpatentable over Hong et al. (U.S. Patent No. 6,646,894) in combination with Huh et al., for the reasons described in pages 3-4. Applicants respectfully traverse this ground of rejection.

To reject the claims of a patent application over a cited reference, the Office must substantiate first that reference qualifies as “prior art.” Hong et al. was filed in the U.S. on November 15, 2002. Hong et al. claims priority of a Korean application filed on December 21, 2001. But for purposes as qualifying as “prior art,” the earliest date on which Hong can rely is not the effective filing date, but the actual U.S. filing date of November 15, 2002.

On the other hand, the present application was filed on September 26, 2003, and claims priority of a Korean application filed on October 21, 2002. On page 1 of the Office Action, the Office acknowledged Applicants claim for foreign priority and noted that the certified copy of the priority documents has been received. Thus, the filing date of the present application is its effective filing date of October 21, 2002. Accordingly, Hong et al. was filed after the present application was filed and, therefore, does not qualify as prior art. As a result, Hong et al. can not be used to reject the present claims.

Lacking the disclosure of Hong et al., the Office cannot properly combine its teachings with Huh et al. to reject the claims under 35 U.S.C. § 103. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this ground of rejection.

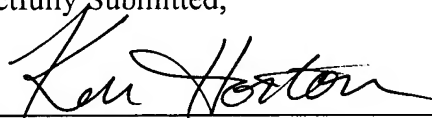
CONCLUSION

For the above reasons, as well as those of record, Applicants respectfully request the Office to withdraw the pending grounds of rejection and allow the pending claims.

If there is any fee due in connection with the filing of this Amendment, including a fee for an extension of time not accounted for above, please charge the fee to our deposit account 50-0843.

Respectfully Submitted,

By



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